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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences for 1994

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/190 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session and as appropriate at subsequent sessions, a consolidated statement relating to the number and costs of scheduled special conferences, bearing in mind the annual limit of five, as set out in resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

2. On the basis of requests contained in various draft resolutions, the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions, was provided with statements of programme budget implications containing estimates of conference-servicing requirements at full cost for the following two special conferences to be convened in 1994: the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Barbados for a period of two weeks (for programme budget implications see A/C.5/47/81, sect. IV); and the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held at Cairo for a period of seven days (for programme budget implications see A/C.5/46/25 and Corr.1; for revised estimates pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/93, see A/C.5/46/34). The statements of programme budget implications are summarized below. The annex to the present report contains a recapitulation in table form of these statements, showing the respective estimates of full conference-servicing costs broken down into

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* A/48/50.

pre-session documentation, meeting servicing, in-session documentation and post-session documentation. The costing for the two conferences that appears herein, including the full costing of any preparatory and regional meetings to be held in 1993, was based on figures current at the time the relevant statements were prepared.

3. Moreover, in its resolution 47/202 A of 22 December 1992, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a revised consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences convened under United Nations auspices towards the end of each of its sessions. As the costing for the Global Conference and any relevant regional technical meetings has yet to be prepared, pending further information on the structure of the Conference, those figures will be issued in an addendum to the present report together with information regarding special conferences scheduled after the issuance of this document, pursuant to resolution 47/202.

I. GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

A. Requests and decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 47/189

4. In paragraphs 1 to 3 of its resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly decided to convene in Barbados in April 1994 the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which will be of two weeks' duration and will have the highest possible level of participation, with a view to elaborating strategies and measures to enhance the sustainable development of small island developing States in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development world wide.

5. In paragraph 7 the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite to the Conference those listed in paragraph 9 of resolution 46/168 of 19 December 1991.

6. In paragraphs 8, 10 and 11 the Assembly decided:

(a) To establish a Preparatory Committee for the Conference;

(b) That the Preparatory Committee should hold a two-day organizational session at Headquarters not later than April 1993;

(c) That the Preparatory Committee should hold a substantive session of two weeks' duration at Headquarters in August 1993.

7. Moreover, in paragraphs 13 and 14 the Assembly requested the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide a focal point with a senior official at an appropriate level and with the specialized expertise necessary to service fully the preparations for and holding of the Conference and such follow-up action as might result therefrom;

(b) To prepare a report containing recommendations on an adequate preparatory process.

8. In paragraph 16 the Assembly stressed the importance of holding regional technical meetings on the sustainable development of small island developing States, and invited relevant regional and subregional bodies to organize such meetings as soon as practicable, preferably in the first half of 1993.

9. Furthermore, under the terms of paragraph 19, the Assembly decided that the funds necessary for the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be made available within the programme budget without adversely affecting other ongoing activities and without prejudice to the provision of extrabudgetary resources.

B. Preparatory Committee

10. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference held a two-day organizational session on 15 and 16 April 1993 and will hold a 10-day substantive session from 2 to 13 August 1993 at Headquarters with translation and interpretation services provided in all six official languages. Related full costs of conference servicing were estimated at $326,400. Details of the costing estimates are provided in part I of the annex to the present document.

II. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Decisions and requests contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/91

11. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, the Economic and Social Council decided, in principle, to convene in 1994 an international meeting on population - as the International Conference on Population and Development was initially called - that would bring together high-level governmental authorities and population experts and be open to all States as full participants, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations.

12. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Council decided to designate the Population Commission, meeting in open-ended session, with the participation of any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Commission and of any other State, as the preparatory committee for the international meeting on population.

13. In paragraph 5 (c) the Council requested the Population Commission to consider at its twenty-sixth session and to submit recommendations to the Council on the nature of the preparatory work for the meeting, including the possibility of holding regional intergovernmental meetings.

14. In paragraphs 6 and 7 the Council requested the Secretary-General, inter alia:

(a) To make the necessary organizational arrangements for the preparation of the international meeting on population and to submit to the Council, through

the Population Commission at its twenty-sixth session, a detailed report on the state of the preparations for the meeting, including:

(i) The financial implications of alternative preparatory options;

(ii) Measures proposed to ensure the participation and coordination of the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(b) To take appropriate measures to obtain resources for the international meeting on population.

B. Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/93

15. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council decided that the meeting should henceforth be called the International Conference on Population and Development.

16. In paragraph 6 the Council authorized the Secretary-General of the Conference to convene six expert group meetings corresponding to the six groups of issues identified in paragraph 4 of the same resolution.

17. In paragraph 9 the Council requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to make full use of existing resources of all units of the United Nations system concerned, in particular the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund.

18. Moreover, in paragraph 10 the Council invited the regional commissions to convene as soon as possible meetings or conferences to review the experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions.

19. In paragraphs 13 and 14 the Council decided, in principle, to hold the second session of the Preparatory Committee in August 1993, immediately following the rescheduled twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, to review the state of the preparatory work, including the reports of the expert groups on their meetings and to hold the third session of the Preparatory Committee early in 1994 to review the documentation for the Conference (see section E below for subsequent Council decisions regarding the scheduling of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee).

C. Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/37

20. By its resolution 1992/37 of 30 July 1992, the Economic and Social Council accepted the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the International Conference on Population and Development.

D. General Assembly resolution 47/176

21. In paragraphs 3 to 5 of its resolution 47/176 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/37,

accepted the offer of the Government of Egypt to act as host of the Conference and recommended that the Conference be convened at the ministerial level.

22. In paragraph 6 the Assembly stressed the importance of the active participation of Member States in the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

23. In paragraph 8 the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1993, to consider the possibility of adjusting the proposed timing and duration of the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference within existing budgetary resources and without prejudice to the utilization of resources available through voluntary contributions to the trust funds.

24. In paragraph 14 the Assembly welcomed the convening by the regional commissions and the United Nations Population Fund of regional population conferences.

25. In paragraph 18 the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, in the light of the need for thorough preparations for the Conference, to ensure the timely circulation of the documentation for the regional conferences, expert meetings and the Preparatory Committee.

E. Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/4

26. By paragraph 1 of its resolution 1993/4 of 12 February 1993, the Economic and Social Council decided that the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development should be rescheduled to take place from 10 to 21 May 1993 in New York.

27. In paragraph 2 the Council also decided to convene the third session of the Preparatory Committee from 11 to 22 April 1994, within the overall resources in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to be approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, taking fully into account the budget outline approved by the Assembly at its forty-seventh session and without prejudice to the utilization of resources available through voluntary contributions to the trust funds, taking fully into account the need to ensure the success of the Conference in fulfilling its mandate and for this purpose to ensure an adequate intergovernmental preparatory process for it.

28. In paragraph 3 the Council further decided, within the overall resources in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to be approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, taking fully into account the budget outline approved by the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, to postpone until 1994 the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission and to consider at the Council's substantive session of 1993 the possibility of scheduling it in conjunction with the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

F. Expert group meetings

29. Each expert group would be composed of 15 experts, would be of five days' duration and would be serviced in all official languages. The conference-servicing requirements for the six meetings of expert groups would amount to $800,400. They are detailed in part II of the annex.

30. It is noted from the report of the Preparatory Committee that some of the expert group meetings may be hosted by Member States (see E/1991/47, paras. 50-53). Should that be the case, it is understood that any additional meeting costs resulting from such change of the meeting venue, over and above those reported in the foregoing paragraph, would, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243, be borne by the host Governments.

G. Regional meetings

31. The regional meetings on issues of population in the context of the preparations for the Conference would he held in the biennium 1992-1993 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). They would be of five days' duration each and serviced in the official languages of each regional commission. Each meeting would be attended by three staff members from Headquarters. Conference-servicing requirements for the meetings would total $562,300. They are detailed in part II of the annex.

H. Sessions of the Preparatory Committee

32. The second session of the Preparatory Committee, initially scheduled to meet in New York for five days in August 1993, will be held in New York from 10 to 21 May 1993. Under paragraph 13 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/93, the second session of the Preparatory Committee, as initially planned, would have been combined with the rescheduled twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission, for which the necessary conference-servicing and other provisions had already been made in the context of the 1992-1993 proposed programme budget. On that basis, no additional requirements for the second session of the Preparatory Committee had been envisaged, provided that the total number of days did not exceed the Commission's usual entitlement.

33. The decision taken by the Council in its resolution 1993/4 to adjust the proposed timing and duration of the second session of the Preparatory Committee will entail additional conference-servicing requirements in terms of meeting services. These additional requirements are estimated on a full-cost basis at $33,300. The estimates are based on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements will be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 41 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and that additional resources will be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity will need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be

determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992-1993. In accordance with established practice, provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 not only for meetings already known at the time of the budget preparation, but also for meetings or extensions of such meetings that may be authorized subsequently, based on the pattern that has emerged over the previous five years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 41 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of resolution 1993/4 by the Economic and Social Council.

34. As to the requirements for the third session of the Preparatory Committee, to be held from 11 to 22 April 1994, as laid down in paragraph 2 of resolution 1993/4, those requirements will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 within the overall resources adopted under General Assembly resolution 47/213 of 23 December 1992 on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995. Conference-servicing requirements for the third session of the Preparatory Committee were initially estimated at $462,600.

I. Conference

35. The cost estimates relating to conference-servicing for the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development are based on the following assumptions:

(a) The Conference would meet for six days in New York;

(b) There would be a plenary and one main committee meeting simultaneously for a total of four meetings daily;

(c) The languages of the Conference would be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. There would be 300 pages of pre-session, 200 pages of in-session and 100 pages of post-session documentation.

36. The conference-servicing requirements for the Conference on a full-cost basis are estimated at $825,000. As the General Assembly and the Council have decided to accept the invitation of the Government of Egypt to host the Conference, it is understood that any additional conference-servicing costs over and above $825,000, resulting from that decision, would be borne by the Government of Egypt under the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

III. SUMMARY

37. As mentioned above, the full cost estimates of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will be issued in an addendum to the present report. Those of the International Conference on Population and Development come to $825,000. Preparatory, regional and pre-conference expert group meetings for the two conferences were initially estimated to entail costs of $2,151,700, as follows: Preparatory Committee for

the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, $326,400; third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, $462,600; regional meetings related to the International Conference on Population and Development, $562,300; expert group meetings related to the International Conference on Population and Development, $800,400.

Annex

Recapitulation of statements of financial implications submitted during the forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly containing conference-servicing costs of scheduled special conferences for 1994

Part I. Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Document No.	Subject-matter	Location	Date	Number of pages of documentation			Number of languages	Conference-servicing costs (US$)
				Pre-	In-session	Post-		
A/C.5/47/81	Organizational session	New York	15-16 April 1993	10	20	10	6	69 500
	Substantive session	New York	2-13 August 1993	50	35	50	6	256 900
	Total							326 400

Part II. Schedule of meetings and conference-servicing requirements in relation to the International Conference on Population and Development

Document No.	Subject-matter	Location	Date	Duration (working days of each meeting)	Number of pages of documentation			Languages	Daily meetings	Conference-servicing costs (US$)
					Pre-session	In-session	Post-session			
A/C.5/46/25 and Corr.1	Six expert group meetings	New York	1992-1993	5	32	16	24	6	2	800 400
	Population Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (second session)	New York	1993	5	150	100	32	6	2	- a/
	Population Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference (third session)	New York	1994	5	150	100	100	6	2	462 600
	Regional meetings									
	ECA	Addis Ababa	1993	5	32	32	24	3 (AEF)	2	111 100
	ECE	Geneva	1993	5	32	32	24	3 (EFR)	2	106 100
	ECLAC	Santiago	1993	5	32	32	24	3 (EFS)	2	98 500
	ESCAP	Bangkok	1993	5	32	32	24	4 (CEFR)	2	135 500
	ESCWA	Baghdad b/	1993	5	32	32	24	3 (AEF)	2	111 100
	1994 Conference	New York	1994	6	300	200	100	6	4	825 000
	Total									2 650 300

a/ Programmed in the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission (see E/1991/L.25).

b/ The headquarters of ESCWA, currently located in Amman, were located in Baghdad at the time the estimates were prepared.